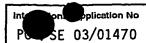
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT



A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 H05B6/12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 - H05B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to daim No.
X	US 5 053 593 A (IGUCHI ATUSHI) 1 October 1991 (1991-10-01) cited in the application column 4, line 29-44; figures 5,7,8B column 6, line 28,44 column 7, line 1-9	1-4,6-12
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A	EP 0 459 837 A (ALFREDEEN LENNART A) 4 December 1991 (1991-12-04) cited in the application column 2, line 18-30; figure 1	1-16

*A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E' earlier document but published on or after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention filing date of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to cannot be considered to cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P' document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention cannot be considered to cannot be considered to considered to considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents; such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents; such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&' document member of the same patent family Date of malling of the international search report 16/12/2003 Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nt, Fax. (431-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nt, Fax. (431-70) 340-3040, 340-3016	X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	χ Patent family members are listed in annex.
2 December 2003 Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL = 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31 = 70) 340 - 240 Tx 31 551 epo pt	'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance 'E' earlier document but published on or after the international filing date 'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) 'O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means 'P' document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
	2 December 2003 Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,	16/12/2003 Authorized officer

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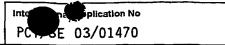
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PCT 03/01470

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US 3 980 858 A (HIBINO MASAHIRO) 14 September 1976 (1976-09-14) column 2, line 53-65; figures 1,2		1–16
US 3 187 151 A (MAX BAERMANN) 1 June 1965 (1965-06-01) column 3, line 63-68; figure 6		1-16
1	18 October 2001 (2001-10-18) cited in the application page 4, line 16-22; figure 2 page 5, line 1-8	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages WO 01 78458 A (LIGHT SCIENCES CORP) 18 October 2001 (2001-10-18) cited in the application page 4, line 16-22; figure 2 page 5, line 1-8 US 3 980 858 A (HIBINO MASAHIRO) 14 September 1976 (1976-09-14) column 2, line 53-65; figures 1,2 US 3 187 151 A (MAX BAERMANN) 1 June 1965 (1965-06-01) column 3, line 63-68; figure 6

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